

**Construction Industry Communication #CIC-07**  
**Inter-Divisional Memorandum**

(From the Building Services Division (BSD)/Division of Sewerage & Drainage (DOSD)  
(To the Construction Industry))

Subject: **Guideline Requirements for Compliance to the City Code Section 1145.75**  
**Wastewater going to Sanitary and Storm Sewers**  
**(For areas listed, but not limited to: Parking garages, fuel areas covered by a canopy, dumpster pads, can washers, loading docks, etc.)**

Date: February 13, 2006

From: Charles Boshane, Interim Chief Building Official (CBO)  
Tom Russell (DOSD)

**Background Discussion**

There is confusion as to when wastewater should go to the sanitary system and when it should go to the storm system. Columbus City Code (1145.75) Non-Stormwater discharge to Storm Sewers states: "Except as authorized by a valid NPDES permit or as authorized in writing by the Director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed **entirely** of stormwater is prohibited ." We have determined that covered drains are not intended to collect only stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g. surface parking lots). Interior or inlets/floor drains that are covered must be directed to the sanitary sewer.

**Guideline Requirements for Compliance to the City Code Section 1145.75**

(Areas such as but not limited to: Parking garages, fuel areas covered by a canopy, dumpster pads, can washers, loading docks, etc.)

- ✓ Drains on the top deck (open to the outside) must go to the storm system.
- ✓ Interior drains in parking garage or other covered structures must go to the sanitary system.
- ✓ A structure that has an area inside where they maintain, service or repair vehicles or equipment must take that drain through an interceptor to the sanitary system.
- ✓ Any waste that is a result of cleaning a floor inside a structure shall go to the sanitary system.
- ✓ A fixture **cannot** receive both stormwater and wastewater. If the discharge is issued by the Ohio EPA, the discharge may go to the separate storm system. If the discharge is a composition or has a potential for discharge of something other than stormwater, it must go the sanitary system. You may have to create a curb around the fixture or add a roof or canopy to prevent stormwater from mixing with discharges to the sanitary.

**Questions may be directed to: Tom Russell, Stormwater and Regulatory, Management Section at (614) 645-6311. (Letter dated 2/14/06 attached from Tom Russell)**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Landowners/Engineers/Developers

**FROM:** Tom A. Russell, P.E.  
Manager, Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section

**DATE:** February 14, 2006

**RE:** Interior Drains, Clarification of Stormwater Plan Approval

All covered interior drains from basement, garage or other covered areas must be connected to the sanitary sewer system. In general, an oil-water separator is required if the drain is from a facility such as a commercial car wash or the area is used for vehicle maintenance or repair.

Columbus City Codes 1145.75, Non-Stormwater Discharge to Storm Sewers states: "Except as authorized by a valid NPDES permit or as authorized in writing by the Director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited..." We have determined that covered inlets or drains are not intended to collect stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g. surface parking lots).

All proposed connections to the City of Columbus Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) must be shown on the site drainage plans. Approval of site drainage plans is for general conformance to City criteria for site surface drainage of stormwater only.

Connection to the City's separate sanitary sewer system must meet all applicable pretreatment requirements. Please contact Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program at 614-645-5876 for information regarding specific pretreatment requirements.

Please be advised that interior drains are also subject to different design and construction requirements; contact the Plumbing Section of the Building Services Division at 645-6340 for information.